

Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council
Minutes of meeting held on August 5, 2016, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison, WI

Members Present: Pat Stevens (DNR) – Chair, Mary Ellen Vollbrecht (DNR), Ken Bradbury (WGNHS), Stan Senger (DATCP), Jim Hurley (UWS), Dr. Henry Anderson (DHS)

Others Present: Kevin Masarik (UW-Stevens Point), Roy Irving (DHS), Rob Thiboldeaux (DHS), Carolyn Voter (WRI Grad Fellow), Jen Hauxwell (UWS), Brian Austin (DNR), Tom Puchalski (DNR), Joe Janczy (US-EPA), Bill Phelps (DNR), Steve Martin (DATCP), Rick Graham (DATCP), Liesa Lehmann (DNR), Marty Nessman (DNR)

- 1) Welcome** – Chair Pat Stevens called the meeting to order.
- 2) Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the May 2016 meeting were approved as drafted (motion Bradbury, 2nd by Senger).
- 3) Technical Presentation** - Kevin Masarik (UW Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education) presented results from his Joint Solicitation funded groundwater research project using field scale sampling methodology to evaluate groundwater impacts at two coarse soil vegetable crop sites. Estimated nitrogen leaching was 90 to 135 lbs per acre at study sites. Results will help with design of better methods to evaluate field specific nitrogen management practices.
- 4) Nitrate Demo project update** – Mary Ellen Vollbrecht (DNR) and Brian Austin (DNR) provided an update on the well head protection nitrate demonstration project currently being conducted by the DNR. Work on the project continues as planned, with three study sites, Spring Green, Fall Creek and Waupaca, established. The study incorporates groundwater flow modelling with onsite field verification to evaluate agricultural nitrogen management practices and groundwater nitrate impacts.
- 5) Progress Report on 2016 GCC Report to the Legislature** – Carolyn Voter (UW Water Resources Institute Graduate Fellow) Carolyn Voter provided an update on her “final” draft of the 2016 Report. The Report is now web based, and is scheduled to be released by Aug. 31st. A motion was made (motion Bradbury, second Hurley) to adopt the “final” draft report as presented by Carolyn - motion was approved unanimously. Report will to be presented to the Clerk of the Senate and the Assembly for distribution to Legislators. A GCC press release on the Report will be posted and links to it will be provided from State Agency Web sites. GCC members commented that tracking of online accessing of the Report would be useful information and that it might be interesting to see if there is correlation between drinking water/groundwater related news items and online access of the Report.
- 6) Agency Updates:**
DATCP – Senger reported that Agency’s statewide agrichemical private water supply well survey (of 400 wells) is expected to be completed soon, and that sample analysis should be completed by the DATCP lab in September, with analysis being done for 80 agriculturally related chemicals. Stan reported that low levels of neonicotinoid insecticides have been found in groundwater statewide and that these results are being shared with EPA. He said the Agency is now in the process of doing a program revenue/expenditure (RevEx) assessment, with possible recommendations that may impact the Agency’s Environmental Cleanup Program, and also that Rule revisions are underway on ATCP 50 and 51 to incorporate the new NRCS 590 standard, with public hearings to be conducted soon.

WGNHS – Bradbury reported that the Agency’s “2015 year in review” is posted on the web, that USGS funding partnership projects are underway, that Madeline Gotkowitz’s Bayfield Co. hydrogeologic report has been finalized and is now available, and that a number of Survey projects were currently underway including: evaluation of hi capacity pumping on the Mukwonago River (Dave Hart - Nature Conservancy project), groundwater quality studies in Dodge and Trempealeau Counties, statewide spring inventory, Pleistocene geologic mapping of Waushara Co. and a WI State Fair UW-Extension outreach effort titled “Tap Into It”, that emphasizes Extension accomplishments.

UWS - Hurley reported that a 5 year Chancellors Office review is currently underway, that the Joint Solicitation request for groundwater research proposals is underway, with UW likely to have approximately \$ 250,000 to \$ 345,000 available this year to fund projects, that “Water Wise” at EDU, with speakers and posters highlighting UW water related projects, is scheduled for Oct. 28th at the Madison campus. He also reported that two graduate fellowships would be funded next year, one through the Water Resources Institute, working on water quality monitoring, and one through the Sea Grant program working on coastal engineering and management. Jim presented Mary Ellen Vollbrecht with a historic map of artesian well locations in recognition of her many years of water quality protection service.

DHS – Anderson reported that the Agency is currently involved with a number of groundwater/drinking water related issues/projects including: public inquiries related to occurrence of lead and perfluorochemicals, PFOA and PFOS, in drinking water supplies, a new public tracking portal with a link to water supply well sampling results, dietary exposure to perfluorochemicals through fish consumption, tracking the results of recently released US EPA unregulated Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) substance monitoring in WI, home water supply well sampling/analysis related to recent northern WI flooding events and ATSDR program mapping possible vapor intrusion issues at historic dry cleaner sites. He reported that Dr. Jon Meiman will soon take over the position of DHS Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health Chief Medical Officer, and that the new Agency Director/Secretary is Linda Seemeyer.

DNR – Stevens reported that the new online hi-capacity well map viewer is now up and active, the City of Waukesha water diversion has been approved for 8.2 million gallons per day with the next step being permit issuance, that the Kewaunee Groundwater Collaboration Workgroup recommendations were finalized and available on the Workgroup web site, that the NRB had approved a Scope Statement for revisions to ch. NR 151 to address groundwater concerns in sensitive areas, and that the Public Water Supply - Source Water Protection/Well Head Protection web page had been revamped. Pat also reported that Eric Ebersberger had retired from the Agency and that Jim Zellmer is the new Environmental Management Division Deputy Administrator. Pat also recognized Mary Ellen Vollbrecht’s contribution to the GCC and the protection of State water resources.

7) Ken Bradbury moved to adjourn (Anderson 2nd), all in favor.

Next Meeting Scheduled for: Nov. 18, 2016 at DATCP

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Phelps